

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA:GECHAFIN:MBB

APPROVED BY ARA:WDROGERS

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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P 261602Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

USCINCSO

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 046654

E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS:OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A), CS

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT: REMARKS TO US MISSION  
EMPLOYEES AT BINATIONAL CENTER

1. I WANT TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO THE TEXT OF THE  
SECRETARY'S INFORMAL ADDRESS TO THE US MISSION EMPLOYEES  
IN SAN JOSE GIVEN TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1976. THE  
SECRETARY'S DISPARAGING REMARKS ABOUT MY ROLE NOTWITH-  
STANDING, I BELIEVE THE ADDRESS PROVIDES A GOOD INSIGHT  
TO THE SECRETARY'S REACTIONS AND THOSE OF MY OWN TO HIS  
JUST CONCLUDED LATIN AMERICAN TRIP.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

"MR. AMBASSADOR, MR. FOREIGN MINISTER, LADIES AND GENTLE-  
MEN: YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT A RELIEF IT IS TO BE ABLE TO  
SPEAK WITHOUT BEING INTRODUCED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER.  
THIS NOT MEANT AS A REFLECTION ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER  
WHOM I ADMIRE AND WITH WHOM I'VE WORKED FOR MANY YEARS,  
BUT IT IS A TERRIBLY DISCONCERTING EXPERIENCE TO GIVE

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A TALK THAT YOU THINK IS REASONABLY ELOQUENT AND THEN

HAVE HIM GET UP AND SAY ALL THE THINGS WHICH YOU THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID, AND TO DO IT WITH AN ELOQUENCE THAT NO ONE BORN IN THE GERMANIC TRADITION CAN POSSIBLY MATCH, BUT I WANTED TO SAY A FEW THINGS. ONE, THIS TRIP THROUGH LATIN AMERICA HAS BEEN REALLY EXTREMELY EXCITING FOR ME BECAUSE IT HAS SHOWN ME WHAT I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN THEORETICALLY. WHAT CLOSE HUMAN BONDS EXIST BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES, AND I WOULD SAY, ALL OF THE COUNTRIES THAT WE HAVE VISITED. IN OUR NEWSPAPERS WE ALWAYS READ THE RHETORIC OF CONFRONTATION AND ALL THE FORMAL DEMANDS THAT ELOQUENT LEADERS WHO SPECIALIZE IN ORATORY PUT FORWARD FROM TIME TO TIME. BUT WHAT IS NOT ADEQUATELY REPORTED BECAUSE IT PROBABLY CANNOT BE ADEQUATELY REPORTED IS THE CENTURY AND A HALF OF HUMAN CONTACT THAT HAS BEEN BUILT UP BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA, AND MY COLLEAGUES AND I HAVE TALKED A GREAT DEAL ON THIS TRIP OF HOW RELATIVELY EASY IT IS IF WE CAN JUST DECIDE WHERE TO GO AND IF WE CAN EVER STOP SQUABBLING AMONG OURSELVES TO DO WHAT IS NEEDED TO SHOW IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE WHAT FREE PEOPLES WORKING TOGETHER CAN ACHIEVE. IN THIS SENSE IT IS FITTING THAT I SHOULD END MY TRIP HERE IN COSTA RICA. IT MAY BE A SMALL COUNTRY, IT IS A SMALL COUNTRY, AND THOSE WHO MEASURE INFLUENCE BY GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT AND BY TECHNICAL CRITERIA WOULD NOT RATE IT AT THE VERY TOP OF THE SCALE. BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, COSTA RICA IS A DEMOCRACY AND THE WISDOM OF ITS FOREIGN POLICY, THE COURAGE OF ITS LEADERS HAVE EARNED IT A RECOGNITION AND AN INFLUENCE WHICH IS TOTALLY OUT OF PROPORTION TO WHAT YOU WOULD CALCULATE FROM SIMPLY LOOKING AT WHAT THE MARXISTS CALL OBJECTIVE FACTORS AND THEREBY IT DEMONSTRATES THAT INTANGIBLE FACTORS AND HUMAN QUALITIES AND POLITICAL CONCEPTIONS STILL COUNT FOR A LOT IN CURRENT INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. (I) MUST SAY THAT THE WARMTH OF THE RECEPTION THAT I HAVE HAD HERE, THE EXCELLENT TALKS THAT I HAD WITH THE PRESIDENT, AND WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAVE BEEN A VERY FITTING CLIMAX TO MY TRIP. NOW A FEW WORDS ABOUT WHAT YOU LADIES AND GENTLEMEN ARE DOING. YOU LADIES AND GENTLEMEN IN YOUR DAILY EFFORTS ARE DEMONSTRATING THE VALIDITY

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OF THE GENERAL OBSERVATIONS I MADE EARLIER. WE CAN TALK ALL WE WANT ABOUT BUILDING A NEW WORLD OF COOPERATION AND MOVING FROM AN ERA OF CONFRONTATION TO AN ERA OF COOPERATION. BUT UNLESS SOMEBODY IS WILLING TO GO OUT THERE AND DO IT THESE BECOME ABSTRACT STATEMENTS. WE CAN SIGN AS MANY HIGH SOUNDING DECLARATIONS OF PRINCIPLES BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTERS AS WE WANT BUT SOMEBODY HAS TO TRANSLATE IT INTO THE DAY TO DAY EXPERIENCE

OF DIPLOMACY AND INTO THE DAY TO DAY ACTIONS OF PEOPLE. I AM VERY IMPRESSED BY WHAT I HAVE SEEN OF THIS CENTER, AND I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED VERY STRONGLY IN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PEACE CORPS AND OF THE VARIOUS OTHER PROGRAMS THAT WE HAVE IN COUNTRIES AS THESE AND ALL OVER LATIN AMERICA AND IN MANY OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD AND IN MY CAPACITY AS SECRETARY OF STATE I HAVE OF COURSE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF WORKING VERY CLOSELY WITH THE FOREIGN SERVICE. I RECOGNIZE THAT BASICALLY FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS BELIEVE THAT I ENTERED THE STATE DEPARTMENT THROUGH LATERAL ENTRY. AND THAT I PROBABLY COULD NOT HAVE MADE IT IF I HAD HAD TO GO THROUGH THE REGULAR PROCESSES THAT THEY DO. BUT GIVE, SHALL WE SAY, THIS PROFESSIONAL DEFORMATION AND GIVEN THE FACT THAT OCCASIONALLY I INSIST ON EXERCISING MY OWN JUDGMENT WHICH I WANT TO ASSURE YOU ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS IS TRYING TO REDUCE TO AN ABSOLUTE UNAVOIDABLE MINIMUM, GIVEN ALL THESE INHIBITIONS UNDER WHICH YOU ALL HAVE TO OPERATE, YOU HAVE BORNE WITH ME AMAZINGLY WELL AND WE DO HAVE THE MOST DEDICATED AND MOST PROFESSIONAL FOREIGN SERVICE OF ANY COUNTRY THAT I HAVE DEALT WITH. FOR THOSE OF US WHO HAVE TO MAKE DECISIONS IN WASHINGTON IT IS REALLY CRUCIAL THAT WE GET FREQUENT AND ACCURATE REPORTING, AND IF I AM VERY INSISTENT SOME OF YOUR CABLES ARE EVEN PERMITTED TO COME THROUGH TO ME, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT HAVE NO IMPLICATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE DECISION. BUT, YOU THINK I AM JOKING. BUT I DO WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I DO MAKE AN EFFORT TO READ A LOT OF THE REPORTING CABLES BECAUSE I FEEL THAT IT IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO MAKE A DECISION ON A CURRENT PROBLEM OR ON AN IMMEDIATE ISSUE UNLESS I KEEP MYSELF INFORMED ABOUT THE GENERAL TRENDS IN AN AREA, THE BASIC UNCLASSIFIED

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TENDENCIES THAT ARE DEVELOPING, AND I THEREFORE RELY VERY MUCH ON THE OFFICERS IN THE FIELD AND I HAVE NOT BEEN DISAPPOINTED. OUR AMBASSADOR I HAVE KNOWN FOR A LONG TIME AND VERY FAVORABLY AND HE NOT ONLY HAS MY PROFESSIONAL CONFIDENCE BUT MY VERY HIGH PERSONAL REGARD. SO THAT YOU LADIES AND GENTLEMEN WHO ARE IN REALLY AN IMPORTANT COUNTRY TO US IN LATIN AMERICA, IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT SHARES SO MANY OF OUR VALUES, IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT HAS NEVER BEEN AFRAID TO STATE ITS FRIENDSHIP, IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT HAS HAD A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS, IMPORTANT BECAUSE LAST YEAR IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL IT HAD THE COURAGE TO STAND FOR ITS CONVICTIONS WHEN MANY MUCH MORE POWERFUL NATIONS WERE TRYING TO TRIM WITH THE CURRENTS OF THE PERIOD. AND IMPORTANT BECAUSE WE IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE HAVE

TO DEMONSTRATE WHAT FREE PEOPLES WORKING TOGETHER CAN

ACHIEVE. SO I AM GLAD THE AMBASSADOR GAVE ME AN  
OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH YOU ALL, TO THANK YOU PERSON-  
ALLY, AND TO TELL YOU THAT YOU ARE VERY MUCH APPRE-  
CIATED, THAT WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND  
FOR YOUR SERVICE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH." END TEXT. KISSINGER

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